

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7975

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02523

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: FRG-GDR RELATIONS

REF: A) USBER 242; B) BONN 2017

SUMMARY: FRG BONN GROUP DELEGATION CHIEF LUECKING GAVE ALLIES BRIEF STATUS REPORT ON FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS ON GDR PACKAGE PROPOSAL. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN FOM OFF REP AT FEB 11 MEETING OF INTER-MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP WHICH HAD BEEN FORMED TO COORDINATE MATTER FOR BONN (SEE BONN 808). END SUMMARY.

1. LUECKING SAID THAT WORKING GROUP MEETING FEB 11, CHAIRED BY PERM REP CHIEF GAUS HAD BEEN HELD TO FURTHER CONSIDER FRG PRIORITIES IN UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON GDR PACKAGE. HE SAID GAUS HAD MET WITH NIER LATE IN JANUARY TO EXPLAIN AND PROPOSE ACCEPTANCE OF FRG CONCEPT OF HOW NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED. FRG PROPOSAL IS THAT TALKS WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY "CENTRAL NEGOTIATING
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DELEGATIONS," HEADED ON FRG SIDE BY GAUS WITH WEICHERT

FROM INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY AS DEPUTY, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SPECIALISTS FROM THE CONCERNED MINISTRIES. THE "CENTRAL DELEGATION" WOULD SPECIFICALLY HANDLE ALL POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE MATTERS UNDER NEGOTIATION, WITH THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT TECHNICAL ASPECTS WOULD BE BROKEN OUT FOR TREATMENT BY SPECIALISTS ON EACH SIDE. LUECKING SAID NO GDR REPLY HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED, BUT FRG EXPECTS ONE THIS OR NEXT WEEK. COMMENT: UP TO NOW, NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR ON SPECIFIC ITEMS SUCH AS THOSE CONTAINED IN PACKAGE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY DELEGATION USUALLY COMPRISED ENTIRELY OF CONCERNED MINISTRY OFFICIALS. GIVEN IMPORTANCE TO FRG OF TALKS ON PACKAGE, IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY CHANCELLERY WISHES TO CREATE A MECHANISM WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR BETTER CONTROL AND COORDINATION. END COMMENT.

2. REGARDING QUESTION OF FINANCING THOSE PROJECTS WHICH MAY BE AGREED DURING NEGOTIATIONS, LUECKING SAID FRG HAS MADE POINT TO GDR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT FACT OF FRG WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO TALKS ON PACKAGE DOES NOT MEAN BONN ACCEPTS GDR POSITION (AS STATED IN ITS DEC 9 MESSAGE TO FRG) THAT THE COSTS WOULD FALL TO FRG. LUECKING ALSO SAID THAT GDR RESPONSE TO FRG PROPOSAL THAT BONN CONDUCT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON OPENING TELTOW CANAL HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. LUECKING ADDED THAT FRG WORKING GROUP WAS NOT SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN UNTIL GDR RESPONSE TO BONN'S PROPOSAL ON CENTRAL DELEGATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED, "WHEN THE WORK WOULD REALLY BEGIN."

3. LUECKING TOLD ALLIED REPS THAT FRG CONSIDERED IT OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT ALL INFO ON FRG-GDR TALKS BE VERY CLOSELY HELD, AND REQUESTED THAT ALLIES EXERCISE GREAT DISCRETION REGARDING INFORMATION HE HAD JUST PASSED. HILLENBRAND

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